**Dear parents and students,**

**My name is Gene Vande Bunte, and I am writing this letter to introduce myself as your 6th grade Mathematics instructor. I am a graduate of Hope College. I attended Western Michigan University to receive my master’s degree. My wife is a nurse at Spectrum Health. Our family has 3 boys. We keep busy with sports, and many other activities we are involved in.**

**This year we are covering the 6th grade Common Core Standards in Mathematics (attached). The Common Core in Michigan allows every grade level to study, in depth, certain Mathematics concepts. We have 3 different textbooks for reference in the classroom. The Connected Mathematics textbook is the textbook students may check out for home use from the media center. We generally have assignments 1 or 2 days a week. Assignments are usually handouts and are due the next day. Assignment grades will be recorded. We use the TI 34 II calculators at school, and students should have some type of calculator at home.**

**Grading will come from all the assessments, both tests and quizzes, we will be having on a weekly basis in class. I will always correct the work, and students will be able to do some type of retake if they fail the original test. Students are also required to take notes, complete homework assignments, assigned projects, lab worksheets, and puzzles when given. I also expect students to participate in all the games, activities, and group work we will be doing during the year.**

**Homework for each week is entered on the computer for parents to view. I generally do this on the weekend for the next week. The website is <http://vandebunteclass.wikispaces.com/>. If you click on *lesson plan calendar*, the date, and *more details*, the topic for the day should appear. If you go to *6th grade Mathematics* on the home page many helpful websites will appear. The first two are textbooks we use in the classroom. You can find practice problems, quizzes, videos, and other ways to learn Mathematics we are studying. These will be updated during the year.**

**There are two main ways to reach me. My prep time is 1:15 to 2:00 PM. The phone number at Valleywood is 538-7670. My extension is 34304. Please feel free to leave a message. You can also e-mail me at school. My address is:** [**Gene.VandeBunte@Kentwoodps.org**](mailto:Gene.VandeBunte@Kentwoodps.org)**.**

**I am looking forward to an exciting year of learning and growing together. I feel fortunate to be part of an outstanding staff at Valleywood.**

**Sincerely**

**Mr. Vande Bunte**